

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace the pending claims with the following claim listing:

1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (New) A connecting lock for exhibition stands, the connecting lock comprising:

a lock shell having inclined bearing surfaces in a front portion thereon;

a lock plate having a front end and a back end, a plurality of plate tongues being disposed at the front end of the lock plate, an end of each plate tongue being bent into a hook with a reverse bending direction between adjacent hooks and each plate tongue having a beveled surface, the plate tongues being separated by a plurality of elongated slots, each slot being divided into three sections of different widths;

a stop tooth disposed on the lock plate; and

an eccentric lock cam, having an eccentric cam, the lock plate being inserted into the lock shell, and the eccentric lock cam being inserted through a first hole and a second hole, and into a third hole, wherein the first hole has an arc and the first hole and the third hole are formed in the lock shell, and the second hole is formed in the lock plate,

wherein the eccentric cam on the eccentric lock cam and the stop tooth on the lock plate constitute a stop structure.

10. (New) The connecting lock as defined in claim 9, further comprising a barrier tooth on the lock plate.

11. (New) The connecting lock as defined in claim 9, wherein a first rectangular hole is formed on an upper surface of the lock shell.

12. (New) The connecting lock as defined in claim 9, wherein a second rectangular hole is formed on an upper side of the lock shell.

13. (New) The connecting lock as defined in claim 9, further comprising a flange strip disposed on an internal surface of a bottom side of the lock shell.

14. (New) The connecting lock as defined in claim 9, further comprising a flange on the hole of the lock plate.

15. (New) The connecting lock as defined in claim 9, wherein the back end of the lock plate is bent into a U-shaped half-loop having an end surface that is a planar.

16. (New) The connecting lock as defined in claim 9, further comprising a wedged bulge disposed on the lock plate.